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Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims

- 1. (currently amended) An isolated and purified-poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) homolog comprising human PARP2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) or a functional equivalent thereof which is at least 85% homologous thereto, exhibits poly(ADP-ribose)-synthesizing activity, and has an amino acid sequence which
 - a) has a functional NAD $^+$ binding domain comprising the sequence motif $PX_n(S/T)GX_3GKGIYFA$ (SEQ ID NO:11) in which n is an integral value from 1 to 5, and the X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid;

and

- b) lacks a zinc finger sequence motif of the general formula $CX_2CX_mHX_2C$ (SEQ ID NO:30) in which m is an integral value of 28 or 30, and the X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid.
- 2. (currently amended) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 1, wherein the functional NAD⁺ binding domain comprises one of the following general sequence motifs:

(S/T)XGLR(I/V)XPX_n(S/T)GX₃GKGIYFA (SEQ ID NO:12) of LLWHG(S/T)X₇IL(S/T)XGLR(I/V)XPX_n(S/T)GX₃GKGIYFAX₃SKSAXY (SEQ ID NO:13)

in which n is an integral value from 1 to 5, and the X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid.

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3. (currently amended) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 1, <u>further</u> comprising at <u>least another one of</u> the <u>following</u> part-sequence motifs:

LX₉NX₂YX₂QLLX(D/E)X_{10/11}WGRVG (SEQ ID NO: 15)₅

AX₃FXKX₄KTXNXWX₅FX₃PXK (SEQ ID NO:16),

QXL(I/L)X₂IX₉MX₁₀PLGKLX₃QIX₆L (SEQ ID NO:17),

FYTXIPHXFGX3PP (SEQ ID NO:18); and

KX₃LX₂LXDIEXAX₂L (SEQ ID NO:19),

in which the X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid.

- 4-32. (canceled)
- 33. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 1, wherein the functional NAD⁺ binding domain comprises the following sequence motif:

LLWHG(S/T)X₇IL(S/T)XGLR(I/V)XPX_n(S/T)GX₃GKGIYFAX₃SKSAXY (SEQ ID NO:13)

in which n is an integral value from 1 to 5, and

the X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid.

34. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 1 further comprising part-sequence motif AX₃FXKX₄KTXNXWX₅FX₃PXK (SEQ ID NO:16)

in which the X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid.

- 35. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 1 further comprising part-sequence motif XL(I/L)X₂IX₉MX₁₀PLGKLX₃QIX₆L (SEQ ID NO:17)
 - in which the X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid.
- 36. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 1 further comprising part-sequence motif FYTXIPHXFGX₃PP (SEQ ID NO:18)

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in which the X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid.

37. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 1 further comprising part-sequence motif KX₃LX₂LXDIEXAX₂L (SEQ ID NO:19)

in which the X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid.

- 38. (new) An isolated poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) homolog comprising human PARP2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) or a functional equivalent thereof which is at least 85% homologous thereto, exhibits poly(ADP-ribose)-synthesizing activity, and has an amino acid sequence which
 - a) has a functional NAD $^+$ binding domain comprising the sequence motif $PX_n(S/T)GX_3GKGIYFA \ (SEQ\ ID\ NO:11)$ in which n is an integral value from 1 to 5, and the X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid;

and

b) lacks a zinc finger sequence motif of the formula

in which m is an integral value of 28 or 30, and the X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid

further comprising a leucine zipper-like sequence motif:

$$(L/V)X_6LX_6LX_6L$$
 (SEQ ID NO: 14)

wherein X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid.

39. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 38 further comprising at least one of the following part-sequence motifs:

LX₉NX₂YX₂QLLX(D/E)X_{10/11}WGRVG (SEQ ID NO: 15), AX₃FXKX₄KTXNXWX₅FX₃PXK (SEQ ID NO:16), QXL(I/L)X₂IX₉MX₁₀PLGKLX₃QIX₆L (SEQ ID NO:17),

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FYTXIPHXFGX₃PP (SEQ ID NO:18), and KX₃LX₂LXDIEXAX₂L (SEQ ID NO:19)

in which the X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid.

40. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 38 further comprising part-sequence motifs:

LX₉NX₂YX₂QLLX(D/E)X_{10/11}WGRVG (SEQ ID NO: 15) AX₃FXKX₄KTXNXWX₅FX₃PXK (SEQ ID NO:16), QXL(I/L)X₂IX₉MX₁₀PLGKLX₃QIX₆L (SEQ ID NO:17), FYTXIPHXFGX₃PP (SEQ ID NO:18), and KX₃LX₂LXDIEXAX₂L (SEQ ID NO:19)

in which the X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid.

41. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 38 further comprising part-sequence motifs:

LX₉NX₂YX₂QLLX(D/E)X_{10/11}WGRVG (SEQ ID NO: 15) AX₃FXKX₄KTXNXWX₅FX₃PXK (SEQ ID NO:16), QXL(I/L)X₂IX₉MX₁₀PLGKLX₃QIX₆L (SEQ ID NO:17), FYTXIPHXFGX₃PP (SEQ ID NO:18), and KX₃LX₂LXDIEXAX₂L (SEQ ID NO:19)

in which the X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid, wherein $LX_9NX_2YX_2QLLX(D/E)X_{10/11}WGRVG \ (SEQ\ ID\ NO:15)$

is closest to the N terminus.

42. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 1 further comprising part-sequence motifs:

LX₉NX₂YX₂QLLX(D/E)X_{10/11}WGRVG (SEQ ID NO: 15) AX₃FXKX₄KTXNXWX₅FX₃PXK (SEQ ID NO:16),

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QXL(I/L)X₂IX₉MX₁₀PLGKLX₃QIX₆L (SEQ ID NO:17), FYTXIPHXFGX₃PP (SEQ ID NO:18), and KX₃LX₂LXDIEXAX₂L (SEQ ID NO:19)

in which the X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid.

43. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 1 further comprising part-sequence motifs:

LX₉NX₂YX₂QLLX(D/E)X_{10/11}WGRVG (SEQ ID NO: 15) AX₃FXKX₄KTXNXWX₅FX₃PXK (SEQ ID NO:16), QXL(I/L)X₂IX₉MX₁₀PLGKLX₃QIX₆L (SEQ ID NO:17), FYTXIPHXFGX₃PP (SEQ ID NO:18), and

KX₃LX₂LXDIEXAX₂L (SEQ ID NO:19)

in which the X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid, wherein LX₉NX₂YX₂QLLX(D/E)X_{10/11}WGRVG (SEQ ID NO:15)

is closest to the N terminus.

44. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 1 further comprising at least one of the following:

GX₃LXVALG (SEQ ID NO: 20), GX2SX₄GX₃PX_aLXGX₂V (SEQ ID NO: 21), and E(Y/F)X₂YXYX₃QXYLL (SEQ ID NO: 22)

in which a is 7 to 9 and

X is any amino acid.

45. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 1 further comprising

GX₃LXEVALG (SEQ ID NO: 20),

GX₂SX₄GX₃PX_aLXGX₂V (SEQ ID NO: 21), and

 $E(Y/F)X_2YX_3QX_4YLL$ (SEQ ID NO: 22)

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in which a is 7 to 9 and

X is any amino acid.

46. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 1 further comprising

GX₃LXEVALG (SEQ ID NO: 20),

GX₂SX₄GX₃PX_aLXGX₂V (SEQ ID NO: 21), and

 $E(Y/F)X_2YX_3QX_4YLL$ (SEQ ID NO: 22)

in which a is 7 to 9 and

X is any amino acid, wherein

 $E(Y/F)X_2YX_3QX_4YLL$ (SEQ ID NO: 22)

is closest to the C terminus.

- 47. (new) An isolated poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) homolog comprising human PARP2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) or a functional equivalent thereof which is at least 85% homologous thereto, exhibits poly(ADP-ribose)-synthesizing activity, and has an amino acid sequence which
 - a) has a functional NAD⁺ binding domain comprising the sequence motif $PX_n(S/T)GX_3GKGIYFA \text{ (SEQ ID NO:11)}$ in which n is an integral value from 1 to 5, and the X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid;

and

- b) lacks a zinc finger sequence.
- 48. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 47 wherein said PARP lacks a zinc finger sequence motif of the formula

CX₂CX_mHX₂C (SEQ ID NO:30)

in which m is an integral value of 28 or 30, and

the X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid.

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49. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 47 wherein the functional NAD⁺ binding domain comprises the following sequence motif:

$$(S/T)XGLR(I/V)XPX_n(S/T)GX_3GKGIYFA$$
 (SEQ ID NO:12)

in which n is an integral value from 1 to 5, and

the X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid.

50. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 47 wherein the functional NAD⁺ binding domain comprises the following sequence motif:

in which n is an integral value from 1 to 5, and

the X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid.

51. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 47 further comprising a leucine zipper-like sequence:

$$(L/V)X_6LX_6LX_6L$$
 (SEQ ID NO: 14)

wherein X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid.

52. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 51 further comprising at least one of the following part-sequence motifs:

 $LX_9NX_2YX_2QLLX(D/E)X_{10/11}WGRVG$ (SEQ ID NO: 15),

AX₃FXKX₄KTXNXWX₅FX₃PXK (SEQ ID NO:16),

QXL(I/L)X₂IX₉MX₁₀PLGKLX₃QIX₆L (SEQ ID NO:17),

FYTXIPHXFGX₃PP (SEQ ID NO:18), and

KX₃LX₂LXDIEXAX₂L (SEQ ID NO:19)

in which the X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid.

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53. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 51 further comprising:

LX₉NX₂YX₂QLLX(D/E)X_{10/11}WGRVG (SEQ ID NO: 15),

AX₃FXKX₄KTXNXWX₅FX₃PXK (SEQ ID NO:16),

QXL(I/L)X₂IX₉MX₁₀PLGKLX₃QIX₆L (SEQ ID NO:17),

FYTXIPHXFGX₃PP (SEQ ID NO:18), and

KX₃LX₂LXDIEXAX₂L (SEQ ID NO:19)

in which the X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid.

54. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 51 further comprising:

LX₉NX₂YX₂QLLX(D/E)X_{10/11}WGRVG (SEQ ID NO: 15),

AX₃FXKX₄KTXNXWX₅FX₃PXK (SEQ ID NO:16),

QXL(I/L)X₂IX₉MX₁₀PLGKLX₃QIX₆L (SEQ ID NO:17),

FYTXIPHXFGX₃PP (SEQ ID NO:18), and

KX₃LX₂LXDIEXAX₂L (SEQ ID NO:19)

in which the X radicals are, independently of one another, any amino acid, wherein

LX₉NX₂YX₂QLLX(D/E)X_{10/11}WGRVG (SEQ ID NO: 15)

is closest to the N terminus.

55. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 47 further comprising at least one of the following:

GX₃LXEVALG (SEQ ID NO: 20),

GX₂SX₄GX₃PX_aLXGX₂V (SEQ ID NO: 21), and

 $E(Y/F)X_2YX_3QX_4YLL$ (SEQ ID NO: 22)

in which a is 7 to 9 and

X is any amino acid.

56. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 47 further comprising GX₃LXEVALG (SEQ ID NO: 20),

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 $GX_2SX_4GX_3PX_aLXGX_2V$ (SEQ ID NO: 21), and $E(Y/F)X_2YX_3QX_4YLL$ (SEQ ID NO: 22)

in which a is 7 to 9 and

X is any amino acid.

57. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 47 further comprising

GX₃LXEVALG (SEQ ID NO: 20),

GX₂SX₄GX₃PX_aLXGX₂V (SEQ ID NO: 21), and

 $E(Y/F)X_2YX_3QX_4YLL$ (SEQ ID NO: 22)

in which a is 7 to 9 and

X is any amino acid, wherein

 $E(Y/F)X_2YX_3QX_4YLL$ (SEQ ID NO: 22)

is closest to the C terminus.

58. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 51 further comprising at least one of the following:

GX₃LXVALG (SEQ ID NO: 20),

GX2SX₄GX₃PX_aLXGX₂V (SEQ ID NO: 21), and

 $E(Y/F)X_2YX_3QX_4YLL$ (SEQ ID NO: 22)

in which a is 7 to 9 and

X is any amino acid.

59. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 51 further comprising

GX₃LXEVALG (SEQ ID NO: 20),

GX₂SX₄GX₃PX_aLXGX₂V (SEQ ID NO: 21), and

E(Y/F)X₂YX₃QX₄YLL (SEQ ID NO: 22)

in which a is 7 to 9 and

X is any amino acid.

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60. (new) The PARP homolog as claimed in claim 51 further comprising

GX₃LXEVALG (SEQ ID NO: 20),

GX₂SX₄GX₃PX_aLXGX₂V (SEQ ID NO: 21), and

E(Y/F)X₂YX₃QX₄YLL (SEQ ID NO: 22)

in which a is 7 to 9 and

X is any amino acid, wherein

 $E(Y/F)X_2YX_3QX_4YLL$ (SEQ ID NO: 22

is closest to the C terminus.